



PEWSEY R. D.

1925.

REPORT of M. O. H.



Pewsey MED. RURAL DISTRICT Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my 6th Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration of your District.

I am following out the lines indicated in the Ministry of Health Circular No. 648, dated December 10th, 1925.

The Report will be a "Survey Report" and consequently somewhat fuller than in previous years.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

A. H. WILSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

3, King's Road, Salisbury.
May, 1926.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Population—Census 1921 : 13,028.

Area, 75,218 Acres.

Estimated 1925, for Birth Rate—19,480.

Rateable Value : £57,372.

" " " Death Rate—13,120.

Sum represented by Penny rate : £240.

Number of Inhabited Houses (1921) : 2,745.

Amount of Poor Law Relief : £1,564.

" " Families or Separate Occupiers (1921) : 2,822.

Pewsey District is situated on the Eastern side of the County, being bounded on the North by Marlborough Rural District, on West by Devizes Rural District, on South by Amesbury Rural District and part of Hampshire, and on the East by Ramsbury Rural District and part of Berkshire.

It lies on Chalk and Upper Greensand, the latter of the Pewsey Vale separating the Chalk of the Marlborough Downs and that of the Salisbury Plain; the Southern part of the District, which is in the neighbourhood of Salisbury Plain, being chalk.

The natural drainage of the area is by the River Avon, which passes through the District from North to South on its way to Salisbury and Christchurch.

It is essentially an agricultural district and all the inhabitants are connected either directly or indirectly with agriculture, with the exception of those parts of Salisbury Plain which are in the occupation of the War Department and Air Force.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.	Male.	Female.				
Legitimate ...	164	144	} Males, 175.	Females, 152.	Total, 327.	
Illegitimate ...	11	8				

	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	Average last 5 Years.
Birth Rate ...	16.7	17.5	20.6	22.6	24.1	20.5
England and Wales	18.3	18.8	19.7	20.6	22.4	19.9

It will be seen that the Birth Rate is on the decline, like the rest of the Country, although for an average of the last five years it is slightly in excess of the Country as a whole. This is entirely due to the earlier years, because 1924 and 1925 have both been slightly below that of England and Wales, 1925 being worse than 1924.

Deaths. Male, 66. Female, 66. Total, 132.

	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	Average last 5 Years.
Death Rate ...	10	11.5	10.7	12.3	11.9	11.28
England and Wales	12.2	12.2	11.6	12.9	12.1	12.2

Number of Deaths of Infants under one year: Male, 7. Female, 5. Total, 12
None Illegitimate.

	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	Average last 5 Years.
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Births)...	36.6	70.1	60.9	43.4	57.1	53.6
England and Wales ...	75	75	69	77	83	75.8

Deaths from Measles (all ages), Nil, giving five deaths in five years.

„ Whooping Cough (all ages), one Male, age 11 weeks, giving five deaths in five years.

„ Diarrhoea (under two years), Nil, giving five deaths in five years.

Number of Women dying in consequence of Child Birth, One. This was a case of Pulmonary Embolism in the wife of a soldier stationed in the district.

There was no case of Puerperal Sepsis which caused death. This also gives a total of five deaths in five years.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease.	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to hospital.	Total deaths.
Small Pox ...	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever ...	37	33	0
Diphtheria ...	5	3	0
Enteric Fever ...	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever ...	1	1 (Savernake)	0
Pneumonia ...	20	None to Isolation Hospital.	1
Erysipelas ...	1	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	2	0	0

Scarlet Fever.—Three of the 37 cases were in the children of a R.A.F. man, but who lived among civilians and these children were admitted to Devizes Hospital on special request of military authorities.

This year has been about an average, 46 being the average for the last five years, and no epidemic has been prevalent. I try to get as many cases as possible nursed at home and each case is considered on its merits before being admitted to hospital, but as most of the cases occur in the small and very often overcrowded cottages (for this purpose), it is seldom possible to even attempt isolation at home.

Diphtheria.—Of the five cases, one was in a house where a trained nurse was employed and was adequately treated and nursed at home; the other case nursed at home showed very few clinical signs and though remaining well continued to give positive swabs. I therefore had a virulence test done which gave negative results, so the patient was allowed to return to her duties and no harm ensued. My rule is to send patients at once to hospital, unless for some good reason they should stay at home, as in this disease almost more than any other it is so essential to the result that the treatment and nursing should be good and early. The hospital therefore admits this disease immediately on request by the Doctor attending the case, while in Scarlet Fever the instruction of myself or the Sanitary Inspector must first be obtained. The average number of cases for the last five years is 5.4.

Enteric Fever.—No case has arisen during 1925, and only three cases during the last five years.

Puerperal Fever.—One case was notified in 1925, and four cases in the last five years, of these only one died.

Pneumonia.—Twenty cases were notified during the year and of these only one died. The Registrar's Returns gives three but this includes all forms while only certain forms are notifiable. I am not sure that this is a true return of the number of cases occurring in the district as some Doctors notify many more cases than others, still all deaths certified as pneumonia and not notified are enquired into by me and this year the two deaths certified as pneumonia and not notified were of non-notifiable varieties, so at anyrate no cases died which were not previously notified. The average for the last five years is 10.3, none being notified in 1921.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—Only two cases were notified and neither of these have any impairment of vision. The average for the last five years is 3.1.

Only once in the last five years has infectious disease (notifiable) attained anything like epidemic form and that was during 1922 and the beginning of 1923. This was not confined to the Pewrey district, but was in others of my districts too and was the subject of a special report to you and the Ministry of Health.

Bacteriological Examinations.—Till the Autumn of this year all examinations were paid for by the Council and were conducted by the Clinical Research Association or the Pathologist at Salisbury Infirmary, but now diphtheria swabs are paid for by the County Council and for this district are done entirely at Salisbury Infirmary. These examinations of course constitute the large majority but others such as Widal for typhoid and Virulence tests for diphtheria are still paid for by the District Council.

The tests known as "Schick" and "Dick" in diphtheria and scarlet fever respectively have not been undertaken in the district as no conditions have arisen where I have thought them necessary or practical.

Except on one occasion in November, 1922, when a suspected case of small-pox occurred in the R.A.F. camp at Netheravon, no Vaccinations have been done by me, in this case, which eventually turned out to be not small-pox, I vaccinated all civilian contacts, the R.A.F. contacts being done by the R.A.F. Medical Service. Nevertheless, this scare caused a large number of civilians, particularly school children at Netheravon to be vaccinated by the Public Vaccinators, and I think this small-pox scare was the cause of at least 500 people being vaccinated who otherwise would not have been done.

Disinfection.—The houses of all cases of notifiable infectious disease are disinfected with Formalin lamps and/or spray, and after deaths from tuberculosis, but there is no public station for disinfecting or cleansing persons or articles. I encourage bedding and clothes to be exposed to the air and the house generally cleaned, it often proves a good opportunity to get the house thoroughly cleaned.

The following Schools were closed during the year:—

Wilcot ...	...	8th January to 23rd January, 1925	...	Whooping Cough.
Ludgorshall Infants'	...	29th May to 26th June, 1925	...	Whooping Cough.
Everleigh	...	9th July to 24th July, 1925	...	Whooping Cough.
Oare ...	...	26th October to 6th November, 1925	...	Scarlet Fever.

TUBERCULOSIS.

		Now Cases.				Deaths.			
		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
1	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
10	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	...	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
20	...	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
25	...	2	3	—	3	—	2	—	1
35	...	4	—	—	—	2	1	—	1
45	...	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
55	...	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
65 and up	..	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Total	...	13	9	2	5	6	6	0	3

One Female Non-Pulmonary death was an inward Transferable one and not notified to me.

One Female Pulmonary death was an inward Transferable one and not notified to me.

Two other Pulmonary deaths had not been previously notified.

No action has been taken by me with regard to Tuberculosis employees in the milk trade.

No action has been taken by the Council under Section 62, P.H.A., 1925.

HEALTH SERVICES AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Hospitals.—The Devizes and Pewsey Joint Isolation Hospital provides accommodation for the treatment of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever, and the cost for the year ending 31st March, 1925, was £778 14s. 1d. In November, 1923, the County Council obtained an order constituting it the authority for treatment and isolation of Small Pox, so no provision is made for this Disease by this Council.

The Savernake Hospital at Marlborough provides excellent accommodation for the wants of this District, and the few cases which do not go there are treated at the Salisbury Infirmary.

A Motor Ambulance for Infectious Cases is provided by the Devizes Isolation Hospital and the cost of transport is included in the expenses of the year.

For Non-Infectious and Accident Cases.—At Marlborough there is a Motor Ambulance supplied by the British Red Cross Society, and this is available for anyone who sends for it. It is kept at the New Road Garage (Telephone 30) and the charge is 1/- per mile. I am sorry this is not made use of as much as it might be; it is much better for the patient to be conveyed to Hospital in a comfortable Ambulance than in an ordinary Motor Car; if it is not requisitioned more in the future than it has been in the past, I fear the expense will be too much to retain it.

Professional Nursing in the Home.—None is undertaken by the Council; all that is done is provided either by the County Council or by Voluntary Nursing Associations.

Public Health Offices.—At the beginning of the year Mr. F. Ferris, who had been Road Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector for a great number of years, resigned. The appointments were then separated, Mr. Walter Bickford was appointed Surveyor and Inspector under the Housing (Inspections of District) Regulations, 1910, and later Mr. Arthur E. R. South, who holds the Certificate of the R.S. Institute for Sanitary Inspectors, was appointed part-time Sanitary Inspector. I did not like the idea of the Housing Inspector and Sanitary Inspector being separated, and fortunately, later Mr. Bickford found he was unable to carry out all his duties, so the Housing Inspection has been transferred to Mr. South.

Chemical Work.—Satisfactory arrangements exist with Messrs. Waterfall and O'Brien, of Bristol, for the analysis of any water samples sent to them by me or the Sanitary Inspector.

Legislation in Force.—

	Name.	Date operative.	Particulars.
1.	Dairies, Cowsheds & Milkshops, Regulations.	... 1st Jan., 1901. ...	Lighting, ventilation, cleanliness, drainage and Water Supply.
2.	Building Byelaws	... 30th Sept., 1902 ...	Structure, air space, drainage, closing of old buildings unfit for human habitation.
3.	Byelaws for Tents, Vans, Sheds, and similiar structure, used for human habitation	... 10th May, 1905 ...	Cleanliness, Water Supply, preventing spread of infectious disease and nuisance from refuse, etc.

In addition the Sections applicable to Rural Districts in the P.H.A., 1925, and Section 25 P.H.A.A.A., 1907, have been adopted in the autumn, but have not (at the end of the year) come into force.

Water.—Pewsey has a good Public Water Supply owned by the Council from a well $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile N.W. of the village, 176 feet deep, which gives 218,000 gallons daily. The samples I have had analysed have given a good potable water.

Ludgershall has a good supply from the chalk supplied from a Company which is situate East of the village and in Hampshire. It was analysed in August, 1925, giving Free Ammonia, nil; Albuminoid Ammonia, .006; Chlorine, 1.5; Oxygen absorbed (4 hours), .022; Nitrates, .15; Dissolved Solids, 34.0. Parts per 100,000.

Rushall and part of Hilcot have a supply in pipes from a private source which is good.

In all other cases, except the Military or Air Force Camps which have supplies of their own, the water supply is from shallow wells.

Drainage and Sewage System.—There are no sewage works in the district except in the military camps.

There is a certain amount of pollution of the river Avon as this is the natural drainage channel of the villages on its banks, and this has been the subject of correspondence with the County Council, but as a result of a deputation from the District Council meeting the Public Health Committee of the County Council a satisfactory arrangement was come to.

The following report was submitted to the Council on March 22nd, 1926:—

To the Pewsey Rural District Council,

We, the undersigned, being your Deputation appointed to meet the County Public Health Committee at Trowbridge on the 9th inst., beg to report as follows:—

1. We attended as arranged, when the whole question of River Pollution was very thoroughly discussed and the difficulties in the way of a Sewage Scheme were fully recognised by all.

2. The Committee asked for an assurance that there would be no additional pollution in future, and that some steps should be taken to lessen the present contamination of river water.

3. We gave the following undertaking, subject to confirmation by the Council:—

(a) That the Poor Law Institution should have its own Sewage Disposal Scheme completed with as little delay as possible.

(b) That the pollution arising at the two Schools and the Police Station should by arrangement with the County Council, be discontinued forthwith.

(c) That a proper Sewage Disposal Scheme for the new Council Houses should be in operation before the Houses were occupied

(d) That no plans for new Houses in the district should be passed by the Council unless adequate means were provided for ensuring that no contamination of River Water could arise therefrom.

(e) That the Council would from time to time do its utmost to arrange with owners of property to make such provision for trapping crude sewage as their circumstances would permit, and to periodically clean out such traps.

If these undertakings are carried out the Public Health Committee agreed to take no further action in the matter.

(Signed) C. R. Y. KING.

ARTHUR J. PHILLIPS.

Closet Accommodation.—Pail Closets are the general rule in this district, but in Pewsey and the larger houses of the district a goodly number of Water Closets exist, while at a few of the older houses the old fashioned privy still remains, but these are being converted into pail closets as fast as is consistent with reason.

Scavenging.—In Pewsey a scavenging system has been inaugurated during the year and at the end of December 110 houses were being collected from (on February 5th, 1922), this was very much wanted and has improved matters considerably.

Except for a voluntary system at Ludgershall, no other scavenging exists.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

Mr. South reports:—

Description of Premises.	No. of Visits.	Description of Premises.	No. of Visits.
Dairies ...	195	Knacker's Yard ...	6
Cowsheds ...	192	Iron Foundries ...	2
Butcher Shops ...	37	Other Inspections (to con-	
Slaughter-houses ...	32	tacts, complaints,	
Bakehouses ...	28	nuisances, etc.) ...	49

Informal Notices.—Notices 12, Letters 10, Interviews with Owners, 3. Work carried out except in one instance.

Milk.—No licences were issued under the Milk (Special (Designation) Order, 1923.

Applications to register were received for the following:—Retailers 3 and Producers 4, and the necessary licences granted, making the total number of Retailers 65 and Producers 113.

No special action has been taken by me under the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, yet, except inspection, because practically all the wholesale producers send their milk to London where samples are regularly taken by the London County Council and dealt with by the County Council. I intend shortly to take samples of milk from retail distributors, to be examined for Tuberculosis.

Meat.—Sixty-nine visits were made to Butcher Shops and Slaughter-houses. 24 notices of intention to slaughter were received and in most cases the carcasses were inspected before disposal. No meat has been surrendered or seized as unfit for food.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

Registered.—In 1920, nil; in 1925, 7; remaining at end of year, 6. No new slaughter-houses have been licensed since the regulations came into force.

Slaughter-house Bye-laws have been adopted by the Council, but have not come into force at the end of the year,

HOUSING.

The Council have now launched an extensive Housing Scheme, and eight houses are already nearly completed at Powsey; in addition tenders are invited for the following :—

10 houses at Ludgershall,	2 houses at Milton,
8 „ „ Powsey,	2 „ „ Wootton Muris.
6 „ „ Burbage,	

Not much is being done by private enterprise although the Council offer subsidies.

On Salisbury Plain the War Department are building a certain number of cottages which are occupied by civilian employees and thereby relieve the pressure on existing cottages. By the courtesy of the Headquarters, Southern Command, I am enabled to give details.

SALISBURY PLAIN—AVON VALLEY HOUSING SCHEME.

Approved scope of service. Provide new cottages for Civilian Employees, re-model existing Cottages.

Locality.	Original Programme.	Completed on 10th May, 1923.	Started in 1923-24.	Approved for 1924-25.	Proposed in 1925-26.	TOTAL.
Tidworth	... 40	20	20	—	—	40
Netheravon	... 34	—	—	36	—	36
Upavon	... 16	—	—	—	—	—
Enford	... 12	—	12	—	—	12
Not located	... 20					

There remain :—Upavon ... 16
Not located ... 9

RE-MODELLED COTTAGES.

Locality.	No.	Remarks.
East Chisenbury	... 6	... Re-modelled to form four habitations
North Tidworth	.. 2	... Re-modelled to form one habitation
Netheravon	... 2	...
Knighton	... 2	...
Haxton	... 4	... Re-modelled to form two habitations

The trouble in this district is not so much overcrowding (though there is a certain amount of this, especially at Ludgershall and places close to the Military Camps) as the fact that a large number of the cottages are very old and worn out and not suited to modern requirements.

HOUSING ACTS, 1909—1925.

Statement of Work carried out during the Year ended 31st December, 1925, under the above Acts, in the Pewsey Rural District.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a)	Total (including numbers given separately under (b) )	...	...	2
(b)	With State assistance under the Housing Acts:—			
(i)	By the Local Authority (commenced but not yet completed)			8
(ii)	By other bodies or persons	...	...	2
1.	Unfit dwelling houses.			
	Inspection(1) Total number number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	17
	(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	17
	(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	2
	(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	—
2.	Remedy of defects without Service of formal Notices.			
	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	2
3.	Action under Statutory Powers.			
	Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.			
	(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notice were served requiring repairs	...	...	2
	(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—			
	(a) By Owners	...	...	2
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	—
	(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	...	...	1

CAUSES OF DEATH (Civilians only).

		M.	F.			M.	F.
	All Causes	66	66	23	Appendicitis and typhlitis	1	3
1	Enteric fever	...	...	24	Cirrhosis of liver	...	...
2	Small-pox	...	...	25	Acute and chronic nephritis	1	1
3	Measles	...	...	26	Puerperal sepsis	...	...
4	Scarlet fever	...	...	27	Other accidents and diseases pregnancy and parturition	...	1
5	Whooping cough	1	...	28	Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	4	3
6	Diphtheria	...	...	29	Suicide	...	...
7	Influenza	3	3	30	Other deaths from violence	3	1
8	Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	31	Other defined diseases	16	12
9	Meningococcal meningitis	...	...	32	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...
10	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	6	6		Special Causes (included above)		
11	Other tuberculous diseases	...	3		Poliomyelitis	...	...
12	Cancer, malignant disease	11	9		Polioencephalitis	...	...
13	Rheumatic fever	...	2		Deaths of Infants under 1 year:—		
14	Diabetes	...	1		Total	7	5
15	Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.	3	3		Illegitimate	...	...
16	Heart disease	11	14		Total Births	175	152
17	Arterio-sclerosis	2	1		Legitimate	164	144
18	Bronchitis	1	1		Illegitimate	11	8
19	Pneumonia (all forms)	1	2		Population { For Birth Rate	...	19480
20	Other respiratory diseases	2	...		" Death "	...	13120
21	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...		
22	Diarrhoea, etc., (under 2 years)	...	...		

